VOTES &c.

Of the Honourable Houſe of Commons: *Febr.* 25. &c. 1662. Upon Reading His Majeſties Gracious DECLARATION and SPEECH, &c.

Die Mercurii 25. Feb. 15. *Car. R.*

Reſolved, &c. *nemine contradicente,*

THAT the humble thanks of this Houſe be returned to His Majeſty, for His Reſolution to maintain the Act of Uniformity.

Reſolved, &c.

That it be preſented to the Kings Majeſty as the Humble Advice of this Houſe, That no Indulgence be granted to the Diſſenters from the Act of Uniformity.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

THE Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, did with great joy receive Your Majeſties moſt Gracious Speech, at the opening this Seſſion of Parliament: And being thereby invited to conſider of Your Declaration of the Twenty ſixth of December *laſt; they have with all Sobriety, Duty, and Affection, examined the grounds thereof; and do by me preſent unto Your Majeſty, Their moſt hearty Thanks for the ſame, and humble Advice thereupon; both which, I do beſeech Your Majeſty, that You will vouchſafe me to deliver in their own words.*

May

May it pleaſe Your Moſt Excellent Majeſty,

WE your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of the Houſe of Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, having with all Fidelity and Obedience, conſidered of the ſeveral Matters compriſed in Your Majeſties late Gracious Declaration of the *26th* of *December* laſt, and Your moſt Gracious Speech at the beginning of this preſent Seſſion,

Do, in the firſt place for our ſelves, and in the names of all the Commons of *England*, render to Your Sacred Majeſty, the Tribute of our moſt hearty Thanks, for that infinite Grace and Goodneſs, wherewith Your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to publiſh Your Royal Intentions of adhering to your Act of Indempnity and Oblivion, by a Conſtant and Religious Obſervance of it. And our hearts are further enlarged in theſe returns of Thankſgivings, when we conſider Your Majeſties moſt Princely and Heroick Profeſſions of relying upon the Affections of Your People, and abhorring all ſort of Military and Arbitrary Rule. But above all, We can never enough remember, to the Honour of Your Majeſties Piety, and our unſpeakable Comfort, thoſe ſolemn and moſt endearing Invitations of us Your Majeſties Subjects, to prepare Laws to be preſented to Your Majeſty, againſt the growth and encreaſe of Popery; and withal, to provide more Laws againſt Licentiouſneſs and Impiety, at the ſame time Declaring Your own Reſolutions for maintaining the Act of Uniformity. And it becomes us always to acknowledg and admire Your Majeſties Wiſdom in this Your Declaration, whereby Your Majeſty is pleaſed to reſolve, not only by Sumptuary Laws, but by Your own Royal Example of Frugality, to reſtrain that exceſs in mens Expences, which is grown ſo general and ſo exorbitant; and to direct our Endeavours to find out fit and proper Laws for Advancement of Trade and Commerce.

After all this we moſt humbly beſeech Your Majeſty to believe, That it is with extream unwillingneſs and reluctancy of heart, that we are brought to differ from any thing which Your Majeſty hath thought fit to propoſe; And though we do no way doubt, but that the unreaſonable Diſtempers of mens ſpirits, and the many Mutinies and Conſpiracies which were carried on, during the late Intervals of Parliament, did reaſonably incline Your Majeſty to endeavour by Your Declaration to give ſome allay to thoſe ill humours, till the Parliament Aſſembled; and the hopes of Indulgence, if the Parliament

ment ſhould conſent to it, eſpecially ſeeing the pretenders to this Indulgence, did ſeem to make ſome Titles to it, by vertue of Your Majeſties Declaration from *Breda*. Nevertheleſs, we Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, who are now returned to ſerve in Parliament, from thoſe ſeveral parts and places of Your Kingdom, for which we are choſen, Do humbly offer to Your Majeſties great Wiſdom, That it is in no ſort adviſable that there be any Indulgence to ſuch perſons who preſume to diſſent from the Act of Uniformity, and the Religion eſtabliſhed,

For theſe Reaſons,

WE have conſidered the nature of Your Majeſties Declaration from *Breda*, and are humbly of opinion, That Your Majeſty ought not to be preſſed with it any further,

Becauſe it is not a Promiſe in it ſelf, but only a Gracious Declaration of Your Majeſties Intentions, to do what in You lay, and what a Parliament ſhould adviſe your Majeſty to do; and no ſuch Advice was ever given, or thought fit to be offered; nor could it be otherwiſe underſtood, becauſe there were Laws of Uniformity then in being, which could not be diſpenſed with, but by Act of Parliament.

They who do pretend a right to that ſuppoſed promiſe, put the Right into the hands of their Repreſentatives, whom they choſe to ſerve for them in this Parliament, who have paſſed, and Your Majeſty conſented to the Act of Uniformity. If any ſhall preſume to ſay, that a Right to the benefit of this Declaration doth ſtill remain after this Act paſſed,

It tends to diſſolve the very Bonds of Government, and to ſuppoſe a diſability in Your Majeſty and the Houſes of Parliament, to make a Law contrary to any part of Your Majeſties Declaration, though both Houſes ſhould adviſe Your Majeſty to it.

We have alſo conſidered the nature of the Indulgence propoſed, with reference to thoſe Conſequences, which muſt neceſſarily attend it.

It will eſtabliſh Schiſm by a Law, and make the whole Government of the Church precarious, and the Cenſures of it of no Moment or Conſideration at all.

It will no way become the Gravity or Wiſdom of a Parliament, to paſs a Law at one Seſſion for Uniformity, and at the next Seſſion (the reaſons of Uniformity continuing ſtill the ſame) to paſs another Law to fruſtrate or weaken the execution of it.

It

It will expoſe Your Majeſty to the reſtleſs Importunity of every Sect or Opinion, and of every ſingle perſon alſo, who ſhall preſume to diſſent from the Church of *England*.

It wil be a cauſe of increaſing Sects and Sectaries, whoſe numbers will weaken the true Proteſtant Profeſſion ſo far, that it will at leaſt be difficult for it, to defend it ſelf againſt them: And, which is yet further conſiderable, thoſe Numbers, which by being troubleſome to the Government, finde they can arrive to an Indulgence, will, as their numbers increaſe, be yet more troubleſome, that ſo at length they may arrive to a general Toleration, which Your Majeſty hath declared againſt; and in time, ſome prevalent Sect, will at laſt contend for an eſtabliſhment; which, for ought can be foreſeen, may end in Popery.

It is a thing altogether without Precedent, and will take away all means of convicting Recuſants, and be inconſiſtent with the method and proceedings of the Laws of *England*.

Laſtly, It is humbly conceived, that the Indulgence propoſed, will be ſo far from tending to the Peace of the Kingdom, that it is rather likely to occaſion great diſturbance. And on the contrary, That the aſſerting of the Laws, and the Religion eſtabliſht, according to the Act of Uniformity, is the moſt probable means to produce a ſetled Peace and Obedience throughout Your Kingdom: Becauſe the variety of profeſſions in Religion, when openly indulged, doth directly diſtinguiſh men into parties, and withal, gives them opportunity to count their numbers; which, conſidering the animoſities, that out of a Religious Pride will be kept on foot by the ſeveral Factions, doth tend directly and inevitably to open diſturbance. Nor can Your Majeſty have any Security, that the Doctrine or Worſhip of the ſeveral Factions, which are all Governed by a ſeveral Rule, ſhall be conſiſtent with the Peace of Your Kingdom.

And if any perſons ſhall preſume to diſturb the Peace of the Kingdom, We do in all humility declare, That we will for ever, and in all Occaſions, be ready with our utmoſt endeavour and aſſiſtance, to adhere to, and ſerve Your Majeſty according to our bounden Duty and Allegiance.

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